1:Williams E,G-5 (1923-1925) 1930
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224 rat ventures out towards the bait and as it passes the point of weakness the stick breaks, and it is thrown into the hole from which there is no escape. (Plate XI).

The springe (*ibive*) is used for wallaby and other small game. It is set either on a track known to be frequented by wallaby or else by a hole in the garden fence, where a wallaby might enter. A strong pole (*butarika*) to which a running noose (*ivasi*) and a light rod (*bi*) are attached is bent down and held in place by a cross-piece (*iabi*) as shown in the diagram. The wallaby disturbs the *iabi*, over which the

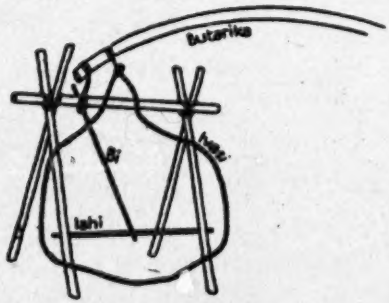

FIG. 4. *Ibive* or Wallaby Trap.

noose is spread, and so releases the spring and is caught. A rather odd transposition of names will be seen by comparing the sketches of the wallaby trap and the rat-trap.

223 *Bird Catching.* Bright feathers, such as those of the common bird of paradise (raggiana), parrots, kingfishers, and [556] numerous small but brilliant varieties, are a definite form of wealth with the Orokaiva, and are preserved with great care. [231] A fledgling may be kept and eventually treated with kindness as a pet, but if a man find a beautiful little bird defending her nest in the hollow of a tree it will not cross his mind to be compassionate. The feathers are too tempting.

The commonest method of catching birds is that of a running noose (*buri* or *ni-sai*) attached to a long line. The noose is spread along the branch of a flowering or fruiting tree which is frequented by bright-plumaged birds, while the snarer, usually a boy, remains in concealment holding

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his long line. A sudden jerk at the right moment and he has a fluttering captive. It does not occur to him that it would be merciful to kill the bird immediately; he rather enjoys its squeaking and struggling. The bird-snarer is ingenious enough to cover a pool with broad leaves, leaving only a small surface of the water exposed. Close by he sets up a little perch horizontally with his noose spread over it, and then waits till the bird after its bathe will hop on the perch to preen itself.

A large net of loose mesh called *bute* or *goga* is used for catching those birds, such as cockatoos or hornbills, which make their nests in hollow trees. The *bute* may be attached

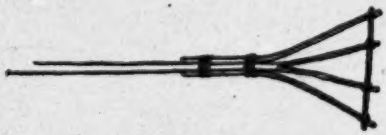

FIG. 5. *Utuba.*

to a handle after the fashion of a butterfly net, and while one man holds it over the hole, another will beat the tree trunk until the bird is scared out and enmeshed. A more primitive method is that of simply knocking a sleeping bird off its perch. For this purpose, I am told, there is a roughly contrived instrument called *utuba*, which resembles a highly magnified 'fly-swat'.

Lastly, there is the sling *Taiba* (see p. 83) with which it is said birds may sometimes be brought down; though if one may judge from the amazing inaccuracy of trial shots, the *taiba* cannot nowadays be very effective.

Miscellaneous Traps, &c. In the Isivita district may be seen an ingenious trap for fruit-bats or flying-foxes. This consists of a small meshed bag, roughly made of bark-string, and of the right size to contain a bread-fruit. Attached to the bag are numerous running nooses, which form a general tangle about it. The fruit-bat noses and claws at the bread-fruit, and is probably awkward enough to get itself caught in one of the nooses.

A second method is that of the *asora*. A bunch of trailers

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241 224 towards the bait, passes the fatal point of weakness, and, as the stick breaks under his weight, falls into the abysm.

241 224 136 A more serious nuisance to the gardener is the flying fox (*dipere*), a very destructive creature whose favourite foods are bananas, papaw, and bread-fruit. In certain parts, their daylight camping grounds, one may see flocks of them hanging in dense clusters from the high branches, or circling slowly round to settle again and renew their slumbers. In the Isivita district may be found a kind of snare for the flying foxes suspended in a high tree. It takes the form of a roughly knitted bag, just large enough to hold a bread-fruit. To this bag are attached a number of running nooses, say six or seven inches long, which form a confused tangle all around it. The bat attacks the bread-fruit in its clumsy fashion; to reach the fruit it can hardly avoid slipping its head into a noose, and then, trying to get clear, hangs itself. Another contrivance, somewhat devilish, was seen at Wasida. The cane palms have trailing branches with cruel recurved thorns which have a way of tearing your shirt or sweeping your hat off as you pass by in the bush. A cluster of these slender trailers is tied in a bunch to a stick, much after the manner of a witch's broom, and the villager stands in the darkness by his banana tree, the witch's broom or *asora* held close to the bunch of fruit. When the flying fox settles, flapping noisily on the bananas, one swift jerk of the *asora* brings him down, with the grappling hooks in the delicate membranes of his wings.

241 ● 223 136 The only bird which does much harm to the natives is the white cockatoo, who plays havoc with young coco-nuts. In some villages long cables of rattan cane are attached to the tops of the coco-nut palms, sometimes with hollow shells of the cycad *Puga* for rattles. Sometimes the native will aim a stone with his sling. But as the cockatoo is a bold bird and the native an easy-going man, the young coco-nuts for the most part continue to be gnawed.

241 674 There is yet another garden pest—the dishonest neigh-